

Concluded,
Recd 126
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with moving said reticle stage and said wafer stage in predetermined directions respectively, projecting a pattern of said reticle on said wafer to perform the exposure.

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31. (New) A method of fabricating a semiconductor device using a scanning exposure apparatus according to claim said method comprising the steps of:

guiding a light from said condenser optical system to said reticle to illuminate said reticle; and

with moving said reticle and said wafer stage in predetermined directions respectively, projecting a pattern of the reticle on said wafer to perform the exposure.

REMARKS

Applicants extends his appreciation to Examiner J. Pendegrass for the courtesies extended to their representatives during an interview conducted in the Patent Office on September 20, 1996. The comments discussed during the interview are incorporated into the remarks presented below.

Claims 1-12 and 15-31, as amended, and new claims 32-45 are pending in the subject application. Claims 13 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 32-45 have been added to further define the present invention. New claims 32-35 are directed to the embodiments shown in Figs. 21 and 22. The terminology "ring-shape" recited therein refers to the shape shown in Fig. 21 and the limitation that "center of the converted light image is shifted from an optical axis of the optical system" means that centers (p1-p4 shown in the

attached Drawing) of light images (A1-A4 shown in the attached Drawing) are shifted from an optical axis (see attached Drawing). They define so-called, inclination illumination. Support for new claims 32-35 can also be found in the description from page 43, line 20 to page 44, line 20 to page 44, line 20 of the specification. In addition, new claims 36-45 are fully supported by the descriptions on page 1, lines 10-16 and from page 21, line 5 to page 22, line 19 respectively in the specification. No new matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 9-12 stand objected to as not ending with a period, MPEP 608.01(m).

Applicants have amended claims 9-12 to avoid the above problem. Therefore, the subject objection is believed to be overcome. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw such objection.

Claims 9-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner further alleges that:

Claims 9-12 are considered to be indefinite because they recite a "first relay optical system" without recitation of a "second" system, and the claims appear to be incomplete because of not ending with a period.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended claims 9-12 to delete the term of

"first". Therefore, the subject objection is believed to be overcome. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw such rejection.

Claims 9-14 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Applicants have amended claims 9-12 to overcome the deficiency as the Examiner identified in the Office Action. Therefore, claims 9-14 are believed to be allowable.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. More specifically, the Examiner alleges that:

Shiozawa discloses first, second and third optical integrators.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is patentably distinct from such reference.

Since both the rejection and the objection have been overcome, it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. In the event that the Examiner does not allow all claims in her reply, then applicant specifically request a personal or telephonic interview to discuss any remaining issues and accelerate the eventual allowance of the claims.

No fee is believed to be due for this Amendment.
Should any fee be required, please charge any such fee to
Pennie & Edmonds Deposit Account No. 16-1150.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure (sketched Figs. 21 and 22)